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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

QUESTION OF PALESTINE

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions A/48/L.41, A/48/L.42 and A/48/L.43

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolutions

1. Draft resolution A/48/L.41

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 4, 5, 6 and 9 of draft resolution A/48/L.41, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Committee to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Secretary-General, as appropriate;

(b) Authorize the Committee to continue to exert all efforts to promote the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, to make such adjustments in its approved programme of work as it may consider appropriate and necessary in light of developments, to give special emphasis to the need to mobilize support and assistance for the Palestinian people and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session and thereafter;

(c) Also request the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations in their contribution towards heightening international awareness of the facts relating to the question of Palestine and promoting support and assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinian people,

and to take the necessary steps to involve additional non-governmental organizations in its work;

(d) Also request the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Committee with all the necessary facilities for the performance of its tasks.

2. Draft resolution A/48/L.42

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2 and 3 of draft resolution A/48/L.42, the General Assembly would:

(a) Request the Secretary-General to provide the Division for Palestinian Rights of the Secretariat with the resources it requires, including the continuing development of the computer-based information system on the question of Palestine, and to ensure that it continues to discharge the tasks detailed in paragraph 1 of resolution 32/40 B, paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 34/65 D, paragraph 3 of resolution 40/96 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 42/66 B, paragraph 2 of resolution 44/41 B and paragraph 2 of resolution 46/74 B, in consultation with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and under its guidance;

(b) Also request the Secretary-General to ensure the continued cooperation of the Department of Public Information and other units of the Secretariat in enabling the Division for Palestinian Rights to perform its tasks and in covering adequately the various aspects of the question of Palestine.

3. Draft resolution A/48/L.43

3. Under operative paragraph 2 of draft resolution A/48/L.43, the General Assembly would request the Department of Public Information, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, to continue, with the necessary flexibility as may be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine, its special information programme on the question of Palestine for the biennium 1994-1995, with particular emphasis on public opinion in Europe and North America and, in particular:

(a) To disseminate information on all the activities of the United Nations system relating to the question of Palestine, including reports of the work carried out by the relevant United Nations organizations;

(b) To continue to issue and update publications on the various aspects of the question of Palestine in all fields;

(c) To expand its audiovisual material on the question of Palestine, including the production of such material;

(d) To organize and promote fact-finding news missions for journalists to the area, including to the occupied territories;

(e) To organize international, regional and national encounters for journalists;

(f) To provide, in cooperation with specialized agencies of the United Nations system, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, assistance to the Palestinian people in the field of media development.

B. Relationship of the requests to the proposed programme of work

4. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established under the terms of General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975. The Committee's mandate and supporting work by the Division for Palestinian Rights have been the subject of successive resolutions of the General Assembly since then, most recently resolution 47/64 of 11 December 1992.

5. The activities proposed in response to the requests contained in the draft resolutions relate to programme 5, Question of Palestine, and to programme 38, Public information, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 as revised by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/6/Rev.1).

6. Related provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 1/ under section 3A and 3C, Political affairs, and section 24, Public information.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

7. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.41, reimbursement would be provided for the costs of travel by members of the Committee, pursuant to the provision of paragraph 1 (a) above, and substantive services would be provided for the Committee's work.

8. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.42, necessary preparations would be made for the organization, coordination and substantive servicing of three regional seminars of five days' duration, two regional seminars of four days' duration, two regional seminars of two days' duration, two regional symposia of two days' duration, five regional symposia of three days' duration, four preparatory meetings of two days' duration and two international meetings of non-governmental organizations of three days' duration. The assumptions made with regard to the holding of these meetings are detailed in annexes I and II to this document and are the same as those made for 1992-1993. Provision would also be made for the Division for Palestinian Rights to carry out the tasks referred to in paragraph 2 (a) above, including the preparation of publications and liaison and consultation with non-governmental organizations. As regards the continued development of the computer-based information system, provision has been made under section 3C of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/48/L.43, the Department of Public Information, in full cooperation and coordination with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, would continue its special information programme on the question of Palestine, using the necessary flexibility as might be required by developments affecting the question of Palestine.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1994-1995

10. The activities outlined in section C above are programmed under sections 3A, 3C and 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. No modifications would be required.

E. Potential for absorption

11. As regards the substantive costs of activities outlined in section C above, provision has already been made under sections 3C and 24 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

12. As regards conference-servicing costs for the programme of meetings, referred to in paragraph 9 above and detailed in the annexes to the present document, section 25E (Conference services) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 includes provision not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings that may be authorized subsequently. This provision is based on past experience and assumes that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in 1994-1995 will be consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 25E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolutions.

F. Conclusion

13. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolutions A/48/L.41, A/48/L.42 and A/48/L.43, no additional appropriations would be required under sections 3A, 3C, 24 or 25E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. It would be necessary for the General Assembly to approve an exception to the provisions of its resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, under which bodies should meet at their established headquarters, in respect of those meetings detailed in the attached annexes which are to be held away from the established headquarters of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Notes

1/ A/48/6, sects. 3A, 3C and 24.

Annex I

1994-1995 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

1. It is expected that the following meetings will take place during the biennium 1994-1995:

1994						
	No. of experts/ members	No. of participants	No. of staff	Time	Duration	Venue
A. REGIONAL SEMINARS						
1. Asia	20	100	8	To be determined	5 days	To be determined
2. Latin America and the Caribbean	20	100-150	8	To be determined	5 days	To be determined
3. Europe	20	100-150	8	May	4 days	To be determined
4. North America	10	100	5	June	2 days	New York
B. SYMPOSIA FOR NGOs						
1. Asia	6	100	8	April/May	3 days	To be determined
2. Latin America and the Caribbean	6	100	8	April/May	3 days	To be determined
3. Europe	6	100-150	8	August	2 days	Geneva or Vienna
4. North America	6	100-150	5	June	3 days	New York
C. PREPARATORY MEETINGS						
1. For North American NGO symposium	12	17	4	Jan./Feb.	2	New York
2. For eleventh international NGO meeting	26	29	4	March	2	Geneva
D. INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING (Eleventh)	15	250	9	August/Sept.	3	Geneva or Vienna

1995						
	No. of experts/ members	No. of participants	No. of staff	Time	Duration	Venue
A. REGIONAL SEMINARS						
	20	100	8	April	5 days	To be determined
1. Africa	20	100-150	8	To be determined	4 days	To be determined
2. Europe	10	100	5	June	2 days	New York
3. North America						
B. SYMPOSIA FOR NGOs						
	6	100	8	April	3 days	To be determined
1. Africa	6	100-150	8	August	3 days	Geneva or Vienna
3. Europe	6	100-150	5	June	2 days	New York
4. North America						
C. PREPARATORY MEETINGS						
	12	17	4	Jan./Feb.	2	New York
1. For North American NGO symposium	26	29	4	March	2	Geneva
2. For twelfth international NGO meeting						
D. INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING (Twelfth)	15	250	9	August	3	Geneva or Vienna

2. It is also assumed that the seven seminars, seven symposia, four preparatory meetings and two international meetings programmed would be organized as follows:

(a) They are not expected to be hosted by Governments and an exception to General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 would therefore have to be made for those meetings held away from the Committee's established headquarters;

(b) Five members of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, acting in their official capacity, would attend each seminar, symposium and meeting;

(c) On the occasion of each seminar, symposium and meeting, the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People would host a reception for participants;

(d) Where meetings take place away from United Nations conference locations, and subject to the guidelines as governed by General Assembly resolution 41/177 C, annex, of 5 December 1986, planning missions would be required to evaluate the facilities that would be available;

(e) Provision would also have to be made for local staff, the rental of premises and such items as interpretation equipment, local transportation and other ancillary services.

Annex II

CONFERENCE-SERVICING REQUIREMENTS

1. It is assumed that the programme of meetings will have the following requirements:

1994									
	MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS		DOCUMENTATION						
			Pre-session		In-session		Post session		Languages to be issued in a/
	No. of meetings per day	Simultaneous Interpretation a/	No. of pages	No. of documents	No. of pages	No. of documents	No. of pages	No. of documents	
A. Regional seminars									
1. Asia	2	A, E, F	300	22	100	7	35	1	A, b/ E, F
2. Latin America and the Caribbean	2	E, F, S	300	22	100	7	35	1	E, F, S
3. Europe	2	E F	300	22	100	7	35	1	E F
4. North America	2	E R	150	12	50	5	35	1	E, F
B. Symposia for NGOs									
1. Asia	2	A, E F	60	6	75	6	35	1	A, E, F
2. Latin America and the Caribbean	2	E, F, S	60	6	75	6	35	1	A, E, F
3. Europe	2	E, F	60	6	75	6	35	1	E, F
4. North America	2	E, F	60	6	75	6	35	1	E, F
C. Preparatory meetings									
1. For North American NGO Symposium	2	E, F	25	6	30	6	20	1	E, F
2. For Eleventh International NGO meeting	2	E, F	25	6	90	6	20	1	E, F
D. International NGO meeting	2	A, E, F, S	120	12	90	7	35	1	A, E, F, S

a/ A, E, F, R, S denotes Arabic, English, French Russian and Spanish.

b/ Excluding post-session documentation.

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1995									
	MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS		DOCUMENTATION						
			Pre-session		In-session		Post-session		Languages to be issued in a/
	No. of meetings per day	Simultaneous interpretation a/	No. of pages	No. of documents	No. of pages	No. of documents	No. of pages	No. of documents	
A REGIONAL SEMINARS	2	A, E, F	300	22	100	7	35	1	A, b/ E, F
1 Africa	2	E, F	300	22	100	7	35	1	E, F,
2 Europe	2	E R	150	12	50	5	35	1	E F
3 North America									
B Symposia for NGOs	2	A, E F	60	6	75	6	35	1	A, E, F
1 Africa	2	E, F	60	6	75	6	35	1	E, F
2 Europe	2	E, F	60	6	75	6	35	1	E, F
3 North America									
C PREPARATORY MEETINGS	2	E, F	25	6	30	6	20	1	E, F
1 For North American NGO symposium	2	E, F	25	6	30	6	20	1	E, F
2 For eleventh international NGO meeting									
D INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING (Twelfth)	2	A, E, F, S	120	12	90	7	35	1	A, E, F, S

a/ A, E, F, R, S denotes Arabic, English, French Russian and Spanish

b/ Excluding post session

2. All pre- and post-session documentation would be processed in New York; Geneva would be responsible for in-session services for meetings held in Europe and Africa, and New York would be responsible for in-session services in respect of meetings taking place in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Documentation for the seven seminars would include papers prepared by the experts, statements by the experts and specially invited guests, reports of the seminars and press releases. Selected documents, studies and pamphlets of the Division for Palestinian Rights would be distributed at the seminar. The nature of documentation for the seven symposia, four preparatory meetings and two international meetings, would be as follows: (a) pre-session: (i) guidelines for the symposium; (ii) rules of procedure; (iii) background papers on major issues; (b) in-session: (i) notes by the Chairman; (ii) miscellaneous papers by experts; (iii) draft report of the symposium; and (c) post-session: report of the symposium.

3. Travel and subsistence would be required for the conference-servicing staff to the location where the meetings would be held.